

Torrance Is A Clean Town,' Stevens States

What sort of a town is Torrance? "It's a very clean town," City Manager George Stevens stated this week. "We have very little crime here, especially no organized crime. And, responsible for having such a clean community is a combination of two things: The type of people who live here and the public officials they elect."

The city of Torrance has a council-manager form of government, which is rapidly becoming one of the most popular in the country, Stevens explained.

How It Works

Under this set-up, a city manager is appointed by the City Council. The city manager is directly responsible to the members of the council who are elected by the people. And, responsible directly to the city manager are all the various department heads.

It was not always like this. Before 1948 when the council-manager form of government was instituted, there was no one to coordinate the various department activities, and department heads were responsible directly to the City Council.

councilmen to approve their recommendations.

Popular Form

The council-manager form of government is very prevalent in California and had its origin 40 years ago. At that time 40 cities adopted it and now there are 120 cities which use it in California.

It is becoming the dominant trend in the country, too, City Manager Stevens declared, with about 300 new cities adopting it every year.

Torrance was founded in 1911 and incorporated as a city of the sixth class in 1921.

Problems

A growing city, Stevens pointed out, has growing pains, and the most serious ones which must be met are the problems of drainage during the rainy season and establishing a complete refuse collection system.

This meant that department heads had to make sure that they could get three of the five

Stevens said.



ATTRACTIVE LANDSCAPING . . . Landscaping adds much to the natural beauty of El Camino college buildings. The library is seen from the steps of the Campus center above. A section of the Administration building may be seen at the right center.

EL CAMINO COLLEGE CAMPUS AMONG CALIFORNIA'S FINEST

Students entering El Camino college this fall will be enrolled in an institution which has expanded, since its founding in 1946, from an enrollment of 1100 to one of an anticipated 6700.

Early classes were scattered in three high schools; today the college campus, located at 16007 So. Crenshaw Blvd., is one of the most beautiful in the state.

Expansion

In the transition from its original surplus bungalows, the college has proceeded on a pay-as-you-go basis. Under the unusual building plan, the campus has made rapid strides in its expansion program.

Currently under construction are three buildings valued at more than a million dollars. These are the music and art buildings and the health center and swimming pools.

Staffing the college of nearly 7000 students is a faculty of 146 instructors and administrators. In contrast to this was the original staff of 56 part-time instructors who divided

their time between college and high school classes.

Brain Child

El Camino college is largely the brain-child of President Forrest G. Murdock, who has held his office since the founding of the two-year college. During the early part of 1946, following a series of surveys which revealed the need for an area college, Murdock and Carl G. Arfwedson, director of business, began working to arouse interest in the idea. At the 1946 elections, voters agreed to the establishment of a two-year college in the district. With this, El Camino college was born.

May 27, 1948 is a day of significance in the history of El Camino, for on that day, the college moved to its present campus at Crenshaw and Redondo Beach boulevards. Classes were held in temporary barracks acquired from the government and formerly used at Santa Ana Air Force Base. The following month, the first graduating class received its Associate in Arts degrees.

New Location

The college has grown in its

new location, adding permanent structures as rapidly as material shortages and finances would permit. Supplemented by the last of the barracks classrooms, the gymnasium, Campus Center, social studies unit, administration, life science, library, commerce, and shop buildings are now in use.

Honors have fallen heavily on El Camino. Sportswise, its football team went to the 1954 Junior Rose Bowl game in Pasadena, and the college has gained wide recognition for its wrestling, water polo, golf, and basketball teams. The college newspaper, the Warhoop, has won All-American honors for the past three consecutive semesters and when last eligible for entry, was winner of the Dickson award, given annually to the outstanding junior college news publications in Southern California.

Future

As much as the college has accomplished in the past, its greatest attainments may well lie in the future.



GROWING INDUSTRY . . . Longren Aircraft, one of Torrance's many concerns, has announced plans to erect a second factory. The new plant to consist of six buildings totalling 120,000 square feet, will be constructed on 10 acres at the Torrance Municipal Airport. The existing plant, shown above, located on Carson st., near Crenshaw Blvd., employs more than 400 persons, with a monthly payroll of \$200,000.



ROSSMAN LUMBER, FOUNDED HERE IN 1923, TELLS GROWTH

One of the oldest established sources of building material for the Torrance and the entire Bay area is Rossman Mill and Lumber Co. With yards in Wilmington, Long Beach and San Pedro, the firm supplies over a million feet of lumber to builders of the area each year.

When founded in 1923 by L. J. Rossman, E. J. Rossman and Frode Kilstofte, the firm had an inventory of \$10,000 and employed four men at the Wilmington site. Today the company has an inventory of over \$1 million, and does an annual business in excess of \$7 million.

Both of the Rossmans have retired from the business. In 1946 Frank R. Hill joined Kilstofte in the ownership and management of the corporation. They head a staff of over 150 persons.

Kilstofte, who is active in many civic affairs including membership on the executive boards of both the Community Chest and the YMCA, points out that firm is a complete supplier of the building trade and of "Sunday builders." We have everything from the foundation up." In addition, the company has a lumber milling service available.

In Wilmington, the Rossman yard is located at 200 Bay View st. The San Pedro yard is at 403 W. 21st St., and the Long Beach facility is at 6980 Cherry ave.

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